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**SOUTH AFRICA:****Situation Uncertain**

***There are no reports of widespread violence during the nationwide work stayaway yesterday, but conditions will remain unsettled in the days to come.*** [redacted]

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The government almost totally banned press reporting, but [redacted] suggest that 60 to 100 percent of black workers did not go to work in some urban areas. Transportation systems operated far below capacity, and streets in most areas were virtually deserted. The US Embassy reported that outdoor meetings in defiance of the government ban were scheduled in Witbank, Johannesburg, and Durban, and protesters are still considering holding a public demonstration in Soweto today. [redacted]

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Government spokesmen report only a few minor clashes and claim that the security situation is under control. The US Embassy reports that Pretoria suppressed coverage of events by cutting phone service to black urban areas and warning clergymen in Soweto that any church services would be considered illegal. [redacted]

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[redacted] that patrols around government facilities in Pretoria were doubled and contingency forces were ready for deployment. [redacted]

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**Comment:** The strike yesterday clearly exceeded that of May Day, when some 1 million persons stayed away from work. Although a major confrontation appears to have been avoided, the situation will remain unsettled throughout the week as blacks continue to mark the anniversary of the Soweto riots. [redacted]

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The strike followed calls by several black groups for an extended stayaway, and some of these probably will try to prolong the walkout. With many leaders under arrest or in hiding, however, the major unions are unlikely to sanction an extended work stoppage. [redacted]

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Pretoria probably will view the relative calm yesterday as justification for its crackdown and is likely to maintain strict press restrictions and heavy security for some time. Despite the highly visible security presence in the most troubled townships, the government will find it difficult to prevent clashes as blacks return to their jobs, begin to regroup politically, and adjust to operating under the state of emergency. [redacted]

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